

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

25 DELAWARE AVENUE, SEVENTH FLOOR

BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202

PHONE: 716-858-8859 FAX: 716-858-8895

E-MAIL: kniazukt@erie.gov

## Co-Chairs:

Hon. Bradley Erck  
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

## Memorandum

## Members:

James Allen  
Robert Blanchard  
Daniel Boody  
Hon. Clyde Burmaster  
Hon. Elise Cusack  
Hon. David Dale  
Hon. William Davignon  
Brian Eldridge  
Hon. Wright Ellis  
Samuel Ferraro  
Hon. Samuel Granieri  
Hon. John Greenan  
Patrick Keyes  
Maria Lehman  
Hon. Peter McMahon  
Hon. Gerald Meal  
Lawrence Meckler  
Hal Morse  
Laurence Rubin  
Hon. Mark Schroeder  
Kevin Schuler  
John Simon  
Hector Titus  
Peter Wendel

## Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale  
Hon. Albert DeBenedetti  
Richard Geiger  
Luke Rich  
Stan Rydelek  
John Sheffer, II

## Administrator:

Tod A. Kniazuk

**To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Government Affairs Subcommittee Chair Peter McMahon**

**Re: March & April 2002 meetings**

**Date: April 26, 2002**

---

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Government Affairs Subcommittee met March 11, 2002 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott, and April 15, 2002 at the Rath Building in downtown Buffalo. Present for the March meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, Meal, Rubin, and Weinstein, as well as ENRP Ad Hoc Member Rich. Present for the April meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, Rubin, and Weinstein.

## Electronic Permitting:

A pilot project involving Erie county, the City of Tonawanda, Wales, Amherst, the Village of Hamburg, and Buffalo is underway. The county has developed a standardized building permit for these municipalities and is putting together a web site based from the erie.gov site. If Niagara County submits a municipality for the pilot it can be included as well. Erie County and the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth have had conversations about partnering on the project. The goal is to have the pilot up and running by the end of the year. On-line payment could be done through an e-check, and for a fee developers could tombstone their information for future use. **The Government Affairs Subcommittee has asked that an update on electronic permitting be given at the April general meeting.**

## Regional Planning

Regional planning is a topic the ENRP has been exploring since its inception in 1998. A working group consisting of representatives from Erie and Niagara Counties, the City of Buffalo, Amherst, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the UB Institute, the GBNRTC, the UB School of Architecture & Planning, and Niagara Falls have been working on developing a mission statement and framework for the past several months. The formal announcement of the effort was held April 23, with several presentations to various groups being made around that time.

**The Government Affairs Subcommittee has asked that an update on bi-county regional planning be given at the April general meeting.**

**Furthermore, the Government Affairs Subcommittee recommends that the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership designate a representative to serve on the regional planning working group.**

Other Topics

Other topics discussed included the natural gas and electric consortium, pooled purchasing of health insurance, records management, joint state grant applications, and emergency planning.